consignments of iron ore exports was conducted. Except in one case, the others were found in conformity with the obligations of the Foreign Trade Policy.

(b) Adjudication proceedings against the firm are in progress.

(c) and (d) The Export Policy for export of high quality iron ore for the year 2005-06 is still under formulation.

Steps to boost foundry industry

1574. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's foundry is on the upbeat both in the domestic and export sectors;

(b) whether Government propose to help this sector in infrastructure development to bring this out of the recession; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per the information available with the Institute of Indian Foundrymen, the total production and export of castings from India is as given below:

India: Total Production and Exports of Castings

	Unit	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Production of castings	Million Tonnes	3.120	3.155	3.509	4.038
Exports of castings	Rs. crore	1243.61	1402.78	1548.85	2008.50

(b) and (c) Under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, there is a provision for providing quality infrastructure in functional clusters/locations of industries including foundry industry. The Budget for 2005-06 has envisaged duty reduction in customs duty on certain items, which would have a favourable impact on foundry industry as a whole. In particular, customs duty on metals and their inputs has been reduced to 10 per cent from 15 and in case of cooking coal of high ash content to 5 per cent from 15 per cent.